

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action mailed on January 25, 2005, claims 1-2 and 5-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Teruo Heida (JP-174893); claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Teruo Heida; and claims 4 and 10-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Teruo Hieda in view of Schrock et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,923,908). At page 7, The Examiner also takes Official Notice that video cameras are capable of being connected or disconnected to external devices. The foregoing rejections and Official Notice are respectfully traversed. The Applicant respectfully request that the Examiner provide a reference to support the Official Notice or withdraw the Official Notice. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 2 and 5-11 have been amended. New claim 12 has been added and is somewhat similar to claim 1.

Claims 1-12 are pending in the subject application.

Teruo Heida discusses an image pickup device provided with a control circuit for generating control signals by a single white-balance switch for two different systems, a change-over switch and a setting switch (see page 2 of the translation). Further, if the white-balance switch is pressed for a time period shorter than a pre-set time period, the mode can be switched from a setting mode to a tracking mode and vice versa. If the white-balance switch is pressed for a time period longer than the pre-set time period, the tracking mode may be held and the mode may be switched to the setting mode for the pre-set time period (see pages 3-4 of the translation).

Shrock et al. discusses a camera having touch sensitive control and a shutter (see Abstract). The touch sensitive control includes first and second positions spaced apart along a surface of the camera. In FIG. 2 of Shrock et al., a user slides a finger from the first to the second position to operate the shutter.

At page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner interprets the "mode changing (i.e., tracking mode to setting mode or vice versa" discussed in Teruo Hieda as the Applicant's "executing an image photographing process".

The claims have been amended to further clarify the present invention. Amended claim 1, for example, recites "a control unit monitoring a button for instructing an execution of taking a photograph of an image..."

Neither Teruo Hieda nor Schrock et al., individually or combined, discuss "a processing system comprising a timer; and a control unit monitoring a button for instructing an execution of taking a photograph of an image, detecting depression of the button, starting up said timer if said

button is depressed continuously for a first predetermined period of time or longer after detecting the depression of the button, and taking the photograph of the image after said timer has counted a second predetermined period of time," as recited in amended claim 1.

Although the above comments are specifically directed to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding differences of various other rejected claims over the cited references.

Each of the dependent claims 2-4, 7 and 11 recite patentably distinguishing limitations of their own. For example, claim 7 recites "wherein taking the photograph of the image immediately when the depressed button is released before the first count time elapses".

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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